

# REBECCA STRAPLE-SOVERS

## Curriculum Vitae

June 13, 2022

Western Michigan University  
Medieval Institute Publications  
Mail Stop 5432  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5432

1404 Forbes St  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
+1 (708) 925-6759  
rebecca.straple@wmich.edu

## EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., English, Western Michigan University  
Dissertation: "Movement and Meaning in Early Medieval England: The Kinesic Style of Old English Saints' Lives." Advisor: Jana Schulman, Ph.D.
- 2012 M.A., Medieval English Literatures, University of York  
Thesis: "Women's Blood, Women's Bodies: Some Female Reproductive Bodies in Anglo-Saxon Religious Literature." Advisor: Elizabeth Tyler, Ph.D.
- 2009 B.A., Publishing Studies and Dance Performance, Illinois State University  
Honors Thesis: "Dance and Dancers in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Culture." Advisor: Susan Kim, Ph.D.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Chapters

- Forthcoming "The Dancing Girls in the *Life of Saints Chrysanthus and Daria*." In *Early Medieval English Women: A Florilegium*, edited by Emily Butler, Irina Dumitrescu, and Hilary E. Fox. London: Palgrave.
- Forthcoming "Pedagogy in the Digital Age." In *Practical Approaches to Teaching Beowulf*, edited by Larry Swain and Aaron Hostetter. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications.
- 2021 "Kinesic Analysis: A Theoretical Approach to Reading Bodily Movement in Literature." In *The Cursed Carolers in Context*, edited by Lynne Renberg and Bradley Phillis, 21–38. London: Routledge, 2021.

### Refereed Journal Articles

- 2017 "'Glorious and Execrable': The Dead and Their Bodies in World War I Poetry." *The Hilltop Review* 9, no. 2 (2017): 14–31.

### Other Scholarship, Creative Work, and Performance

- 2021 Translator. Lines 886–899. In *Beowulf by All: Community Translation and Workbook*. Edited by Elaine Treharne, Jean Abbott, and Mateusz Fafinski, 64. Leeds: Arc Humanities Press, 2021.

- 2019 Contributor. "Book 5, Chapter 6: The Battle of the Pelennor Fields." July 11, 2019, in *ARC: A Tolkien Podcast*, produced by Charlie Lein and Pip Parker, podcast. <https://soundcloud.com/arclotr/book-5-chapter-6-the-battle-of-the-pelennor-fields>
- 2018 Choreographer and dancer. "Visitatio." Choral and dance performance presented by Early Music Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI, April 2018.
- 2017 Choreographer and dancer. "Cosmic Dance." Choral and dance performance, presented by Early Music Michigan at the Mostly Medieval Theatre Festival, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017.
- 2013 – Present Alto. Early Music Michigan. Kalamazoo, MI.
- 2013 Choreographer. "Offerings." Freespace Dance Festival, Elgin, IL, August 2013.

## AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Antonia H. Rostami Endowed Scholarship, English Department, Western Michigan University
- 2019 – 2020 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Graduate College, Western Michigan University
- 2018 Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant, The Newberry Library
- 2018 All-University Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award, Graduate College, Western Michigan University
- 2017 Patricia Lee Thompson Dissertation Award, Graduate College, Western Michigan University
- 2017 National Humanities Without Walls PreDoctoral Fellowship, HWW Consortium
- 2017 Departmental Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award, English Department, Western Michigan University
- 2017 *The Hilltop Review* Publication Award, First Place, Graduate Student Association, Western Michigan University
- 2017 Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate College, Western Michigan University
- 2015 Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate College, Western Michigan University
- 2015 Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant, The Newberry Library
- 2010 Scholarship for Overseas Students, University of York
- 2010 Departmental Postgraduate Award, University of York

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Panels Organized

- 2021 Organizer, "Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Global Middle Ages," 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies (ICMS), Kalamazoo, MI, May

- 2021.
- 2021 Co-organizer, “A Feminist Renaissance in Early Medieval English Studies I: Women’s Networks in the Early Medieval North Atlantic,” 56th ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2020. Special Session sponsored by A Feminist Renaissance in Early Medieval English Studies.
- 2021 Co-organizer, “A Feminist Renaissance in Early Medieval English Studies II: Feminist Critical Methodologies for the Early Middle Ages,” 56th ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2020. Special Session sponsored by A Feminist Renaissance in Early Medieval English Studies.
- 2020 *Many conferences cancelled/postponed as a result of COVID-19.*
- 2019 Co-organizer, “A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies I and II: White Nationalism, Misogyny, and the Modern Reception of the Early Medieval North Atlantic,” 54th ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019. Special Sessions sponsored by A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies.
- 2018 Co-organizer, “A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies II: Projects in Progress,” 53rd ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018. Special Session sponsored by A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies.
- 2018 Co-organizer, “A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies I: Interdisciplinary/Extramural,” 53rd ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018. Special Session sponsored by A Feminist Renaissance in Anglo-Saxon Studies.
- 2017 “Movement and Meaning in Early Medieval Literature,” 52<sup>nd</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017.
- 2017 “Movement in Medieval Literature,” 50<sup>th</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2015.

### **Papers Presented**

- 2022 “Weary Warriors and Violent Virgins: Masculine and Feminine Violence in Old English Verse Saints’ Lives,” 2022 MLA Annual Convention, Washington, DC, January 2022.
- 2020 “Movement, Stillness, and Transformation in *Andreas* and *Guthlac*,” 54th ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2020. – *Cancelled as a result of COVID-19.*
- 2019 “‘A Feather on the Breath of God’: Medieval and Modern Movement,” 54<sup>th</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019.
- 2018 “Movement and Communication in Anglo-Saxon Literature,” 53<sup>rd</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, May 2018.
- 2018 “Juliana and Judith: Movement, Stillness, and Two Models of Female Sanctity,” 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Illinois Medieval Association, Chicago, IL, February 2018.
- 2017 “Gendered Movement in Anglo-Saxon Literature,” 22<sup>nd</sup> Leeds International Medieval Congress (IMC), July 2017.
- 2017 “Movement in Anglo-Saxon Hagiography,” 52<sup>nd</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, May 2017.
- 2016 “Public Peace and Personal Purity: Gender, Communities, and Relationships in Law and Literature of Anglo-Saxon England,” 51<sup>st</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016.
- 2015 “‘Far From Drunk With Ale’: Women, Sobriety, and Power in Old Norse Literature,” 21<sup>st</sup> IMC, Leeds, UK, July 2015.
- 2014 “‘Nor Hell a Fury’: Female Vengeance in the *Nibelungenlied* and

- Völsungasaga*,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis, MO, June 2014.
- 2014 “‘O Mighty Mud-Dweller’: Non-Sexual Insults in the *Saga of Bjorn, Champion of the Hitardal People*,” 49<sup>th</sup> ICMS, Kalamazoo, May 2014.
- 2014 “Celestial or Human Childbirth?: Medical and Scientific Terminology in Anglo-Saxon Marian Texts,” 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana University Medieval Studies Symposium, Bloomington, IN, March 2014.
- 2013 “Mary’s Womb as Dwelling: The Virginal, Fertile, and Maternal Body of Mary in Anglo-Saxon Literature,” Medieval Association of the Midwest 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Terre Haute, IN, September 2013.
- 2013 “Women’s Blood: Ritual Purity in Anglo-Saxon Religious Texts,” 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis, MO, June 2013.
- 2011 “Female Reproductive Bodies in Anglo-Saxon Religious Literature,” Norwich-York-King’s College London Graduate Student Conference, London, June 2011.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Western Michigan University

British Literature I (Fall 2016, instructor of record; Spring 2016, teaching assistant)  
 Literary Interpretation (Spring 2017, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Fall 2013, instructor of record)  
 Thought and Writing Intensive (program for at-risk students; Spring 2016, teaching assistant)  
 Thought and Writing (composition) (Fall 2015, Fall 2014, instructor of record)  
 Art History: Modern and Postmodern Art (Fall 2020, grader)

### University of York, UK

Realising Opportunities (secondary school preparatory program; 2011, postgraduate tutor)

### Illinois State University

Modern Dance I (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, teaching assistant)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2021 Graduate Assistant to Drs. Jana Schulman and Bob Berkhofer, Directors of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on “Law and Culture in Medieval England”
- Summer 2016 Graduate assistant to Dr. Jana Schulman, Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on “Teaching Beowulf in the Context of Its Old Norse Analogues”
- Summer 2014 Research assistant to Dr. Jana Schulman, writing a grant proposal for a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute on “Teaching Beowulf in the Context of its Old Norse Analogues”

## **PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE**

January 2022 – Present	Marketing Specialist, Medieval Institute Publications
September 2019 – January 2022	Marketing Coordinator, Medieval Institute Publications
February – September 2019	Social Media Coordinator, Medieval Institute Publications
January – December 2018	Digital Production Manager, Arc Humanities Press
January – June 2017	Assistant Editor, <i>Hortulus: The Online Graduate Journal of Medieval Studies</i>
May 2016 – February 2019	Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief, Medieval Institute Publications
2016 – 2017	Editorial Board Member and Peer Reviewer, <i>The Hilltop Review</i> , Western Michigan University
Summer 2015	Junior Editorial Assistant, Medieval Institute Publications
2014 – 2016	Director and Editor, <i>The Hilltop Review</i> (graduate journal of Western Michigan University)
March 2012 – August 2013	Associate Web Content Specialist, Independent Publishers Group
May – August 2009	Intern, Lake Claremont Press
2008 – Present	Freelance Editor (line editing, copy editing, proofreading, and formatting for trade, business, and academic customers, including monographs, dissertations, theses, and journal articles)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2018 – 2019	Graduate Assistant to the Dissertation Specialist, The Graduate College, Western Michigan University
2017 – 2018	Graduate Staff Support, The Graduate College, Western Michigan University, June 2017-June 2018

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

2022	Peer Reviewer, <i>Arts</i>
2018 – 2021	Graduate Student Representative, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship
2015 – 2018	AGES (Association of Graduate English Students) Secretary and Co-Chair of Social Committee
2015	Conference Committee, 2015 National Association of Graduate-Professional Students Midwest Regional Conference

## **COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH**

Composition  
Introduction to Literature  
British Literature Survey  
Medieval Literature Survey  
Humanities Survey  
Here Be Monsters: Monstrosity in Global Literature  
Heroes, Gods, and Monsters: Mythology and Modern Adaptations

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

May 24, 2022	Marketing and Selling Your Books Online: What to Do and How to Do It: An AUPresses Sponsored Webinar
March 16, 2022	Building an Online Community and Maximizing Online Book Marketing and Sales: An AUPresses Sponsored Webinar
October 15, 2020	Navigating the Evolving World of Virtual Exhibits: An AUPresses Conversation, Association of University Presses
April 22, 2020	Academic Developmental Editing Webinar, Editorial Freelancers Association
September – December 2018	Digital Humanities and Premodern Studies: An Introduction, The Newberry Library
July – August 2017	Humanities Without Walls National PreDoctoral Career Diversity Residential Summer Workshop, HWW Consortium
AY 2016 – 2017	Graduate Student Teaching Institute, Western Michigan University
July 2016	Graduate Student Teaching Intensive, Western Michigan University

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS**

2019 – Present	Dance Studies Association
2014 – Present	American Association of University Women
2014 – Present	Medieval Academy of America
2014 – Present	International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England
2013 – Present	Medieval Association of the Midwest
2013 – Present	Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship
2013 – 2017	WMU Chapter of the Teaching Assistants' Union
2011 – Present	Viking Society for Northern Research
2009 – Present	Modern Language Association
2008 – Present	Sigma Tau Delta: International English Honors Society

## REFERENCES

### **Jana Schulman**

*Director*

*Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University*

jana.schulman@wmich.edu

### **Jennifer Holm**

*Dissertation Specialist*

*Western Michigan University Graduate College*

jennifer.holm@wmich.edu

### **Theresa Whitaker**

*Editor-in-Chief*

*Medieval Institute Publications, Western Michigan University*

theresa.m.whitaker@wmich.edu